

Walk: NOC 08
Location: **Cym Glyn near Brecon**

Directions: Not easy to find at all. Go to Libanus, then head towards Brecon on the A470. Take minor C road single track lane first right as you come out of Libanus, about a mile after you leave Libanus to the south. Now you wander around the lanes heading north towards Brecon. There are no signs at all.

From memory, having taken first right as you come out of Libanus (turning off right into a narrow lane beside a white cottage or some such) you come to an unsigned junction. Take the road off to the left which will bring you semi parallel to A470 going north. You wind along this road for a few miles, and eventually come to a country parks / walks sign leading off a dirt track to the left. Do not turn off to the left on some of the junctions you come to as this brings you back to the A470. If you go to the right you end up in a very pretty valley, but are now very lost.

Though the walk is not sign posted, hopefully I can get a grid reference or something added so you can program your sat nav correctly.

Distance (miles): 16.5 miles to Libanus then 6 miles or so lanes
 Time (hours): 35 minutes probably, to the walk area.
 Length of Walk: 3 hours.
 Date Walked: 06/04/2008
 Parking: Free – plenty of space up steep lane with parking areas leading off to right and ahead. Park right at the top by the field gates.

Pop in to: Brecon

Description: Stunning mountain walk, some boggy bits after the woodland section. Really most scenic. You go down one side of the valley, with a river on your left. Eventually the river narrows into a stream. You will see several water falls. The path above the river and to the right is clearly well used, so you will have no trouble finding your way through the woodland and out along the open mountain area, keeping the river to your left (about 30 yards and at times 200 yards away as the path meanders a bit). Parts of this walk are hilly. Not really prammable, though I might try it in the summer with our cross country pram.

After a couple of hours you will reach the top end of the stream, find an area to cross safely, and commence your walk back along the other side. If you are not brave enough to attempt a circular walk (some danger of getting lost), simply walk back the way you came.

Having crossed the stream, you will find there are paths but not so clearly worn. Most walkers probably don't come this far so you are following only animal tracks and your nose. Head across open mountain side, following the line of the path, parallel to the path you came along originally the other side. So the river is still on your left but you are returning the other side.

Eventually you come to an area with tall ferns, barbed wire fencing on the left, and a clear path alongside the fence plus some other paths through the ferned area which you can explore.

Follow the barbed wire fence until you come to a field, cross the field and onto a minor gravelly road. Walk down the lane, cross over the bridge and soon after, turn

off along a private drive to the left and basically follow your nose back to the car parking area.

You will find some waymarked footpaths that take you up the private driveway. Be careful to turn sharp right soon after you've gone up the drive, rather than continue up the drive. A little way along, you will be directed to come off the private drive way, by a footpath sign, pointing you through a hedgerow on your right.

From here on in, the route is waymarked with public footpath signs. You carry across several fields, passing in front of a very remote little house and garden that you will walk in front of on your left. Soon after the remote house, you come on to a driveway which leads to another road off to the right. Instead you turn left up onto a stony footpath that in winter can be quite wet with running water. This goes up hill – stony track. Or you can go into the field on the left and follow the line of the path without being in the streamy wet bit.

Eventually you come to a field gate and cross into an open area, where you will recognise that you are now on the path you set out along – the boggy bit after the woodland.

Turn right to go back the way you came, through the woodland, to the car park.

If you find it this is a stunning walk to do. You do need to allow three hours for it, possibly four hours, and do not get caught in the dark. You need to walk virtually to the end of the stream, into the bowl of the mountain, cross over where the river has, higher up, reduced to a small stream, you can jump across the rocks. Then walk down the other side. There are sheep in some of these open mountain areas so dogs will need to be kept under control. There are other areas where there are no sheep and you can see for miles and so can let them off the lead, I have two dogs that are non aggressive with each other, so they can be attached on a short lead to each other, and the one prevents the other from sheep chasing. Or use one of those really long extendable leads.

Not suitable for mountain biking, prams or a segway. However it is not especially hilly, involving no steep climbing, as one is essentially walking along a valley up one side and down back the other side.

Pictures taken on 06/04/2008:

After woodland and boggy area you come out on to open mountain, Follow the line of the path, faint at first (pic left) but becoming more obvious later (pic right, below).



You are aiming for the white mountain 'bowl' which looks to be quite some distance away



You can see the stream on your left as you head towards the mountains (pic on left) while looking back the way you came (pic on right, below) you can see the curve of the valley you have been walking along.



Still walking towards the crossing point – note the curve of the mountain ridge all around you at this point; you are in a sheltered dip and not actually having to climb high at all.



The river reduces to a stream as you head high up, snaking along at the top where you cross over to the other side of the small valley.



Crossing over the stream, you are now following (below right) the somewhat less well defined path back along the valley going the way you came but the other side of the stream.



At the end of the long stretch of open mountainside, after the area of tall ferns, and the long section of barbed wire fence that you follow, you come into a field (shown bottom left with sheep), after which you come on to a narrow lane. Cross the stream on the bridge (shown bottom right) and then take a private drive (way marked) on your left.

